

**From:** Bazzani, Nicholas J  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/7/01 8:34pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I believe it is an outright tragedy that Microsoft has been let off the hook like this. It is quite obvious from the viewpoint of someone who works in the IT industry that the settlement will do nothing to correct Microsoft's behavior. I would point to the release of Windows XP, which came bundled with the new Windows Media Player.

The fact is that they are the "800 Pound Gorilla" in more areas than the PC-OS arena, although that is by far their most visible market. I would say that their practices in the Enterprise arena are their most blatant violations. In the arena of Server OS' (e.g. NT 4.0 and Windows 2000), Exchange, SQL, IIS, etc..., they consistently natively integrate and, in effect, bundle their platforms together by making "add-on" capabilities for one product dependent upon licensing and installation of other Microsoft products. For example: Microsoft SMS will only work with a Microsoft SQL back-end - Microsoft Exchange can only be web-enabled by installing Microsoft IIS - With Exchange 2000, Instant Messaging is bundled with the e-mail client and server software. The list could go on for days, but it all boils down to the same thing: Microsoft always talks about "innovation" - which is just a shallow attempt to cover up their consistent and, I would say illegal, business practice of using their weight in one market (be it PC-OS, Server OS, Messaging, Web Servers, etc...) to break into existing markets (such as Instant Messaging, Media Players, Web Browsers, Internet Service Providing, etc...) by bundling and making their software dependent upon their other software offerings. For example, try uninstalling Internet Explorer from Windows 2000 - the OS will not allow it. Microsoft is also notorious in the E-Mail arena for creating proprietary formats that are unreadable by non-Microsoft systems (Microsoft Rich Text and especially the Microsoft Transport Neutral Encapsulation format of Outlook/Exchange are unreadable and Microsoft does not restrict these formats from being sent over the Internet - which cannot be dealt with on the recipient end)

As one writer for Wired magazine put it, after the Nimda outbreak it is apparent that [Microsoft could be considered a threat to National Security]. They have consistently put "buggy" and insecure software into the market, and this fact has been demonstrated time and time again by 14 year olds who can download "Virus Development Kits" off of the Internet and quickly create and send a new virus into the wild. This, in and of itself, is not such a threat although it does allow a truly malicious and technically astute virus writer to crater or compromise a large numbers of systems with relative ease - as demonstrated by Nimda.

As an IT Professional and an Economics graduate - I had hoped for something more from our Department of Justice. I firmly believe that the settlement will have no impact on Microsoft's anti-competitive business practices

moving forward.

Nick Bazzani  
Lotus Domino Operations  
DSS-Plano SMC  
972.796.5321

\*This statement in no way reflects my company's stance on this subject. It is simply an expression of my personal opinion.\*